Forest Service News Release

Contact: Amber Brazil (360) 765-2255 amber.brazil@usda.gov https://www.fs.usda.gov/olympic

Deadline Extended for Resource Advisory Committee Membership Applications

Olympia, WA (March XX, 2022) – In efforts to have a Resource Advisory Committee that fully represents the Olympic Peninsula the Olympic National Forest is extending the deadline for immediate applications until April 25, 2022. The Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) is a group of 9-15 volunteers that provide advice and recommendations to the Olympic National Forest regarding the allocation of funds, fee proposals, and greater project work across the Forest.

The committee role is to improve collaborative relationships among community members and land managers and to provide advice and recommendations to Forest Service land managers concerning projects, funding, and fees. Advisory committee members represent a wide variety of backgrounds and interests. The RAC is required to be balanced and diverse with equal representation from industry, environmental groups, recreation groups, elected officials, and local residents.

RAC members must be Washington residents, preferably living in one of the counties on the Olympic Peninsula. Applicants will be evaluated based on their training and experience working with the interest they represent, their demonstrated commitment to collaborative decision-making, and their contribution to the balance and diversity of the RAC. Any Washington resident with an interest in Olympic National Forest resources, project work, and planning is encouraged to apply.

Committee members are expected to attend one to four meetings per year. Meetings will be held either virtually or in-person. All in-person meetings will be held within Thurston, Mason, Jefferson, Clallam, or Grays Harbor Counties. Members are appointed to four-year terms and may be reappointed for additional terms. Members serve without compensation but may be allowed travel expenses for attendance at committee meetings. Meetings are open to the public and generally last one day.

Serving as a RAC member is a way to engage with your local land managers, work in collaboration with other community members, and further the Forest Service mission to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands.

Those interested in applying for RAC membership can find applications on the Olympic National Forest's website by visiting https://go.usa.gov/xzHfm. Completed forms may be submitted by mail to:

Olympic National Forest Attn: Amber Brazil 295142 HWY 101 South Quilcene, WA 98376

Applications received by April 25, 2022, will be prioritized for current vacancies. Applications received after April 25, 2022, will be accepted on a rolling basis, and reviewed as committee seats become available.

For additional information or questions contact, Secure Rural Schools & Resource Advisory Committee Coordinator, Amber Brazil at 360-765-2255.